CLAIMS

1. A portable communication apparatus (1), comprising a microphone (14) and a processing device (31) having an input (37) operatively coupled to the microphone, wherein the processing device is adapted to generate a digital output signal from a first electric signal received from the microphone, the portable communication apparatus further comprising a reading device (17; 52) adapted to generate a second electric signal from an optical or magnetic input signal, **characterized** in that

the processing device (31) is operatively coupled to the reading device (17; 52), so that the second electric signal from the reading device may be received at the input (37) of the processing device.

2. A portable communication apparatus as in claim 1, further comprising a switching device (22) having a first input (26) coupled to the microphone (14), a second input (28) coupled to the reading device (17; 52), an output (30) coupled to the processing device (31), and a control input (24) for selecting whether the first or the second electric signal is to be forwarded to the processing device.

3. A portable communication apparatus as in claim 1 or 2, wherein the reading device (17) comprises an optical emitter (44) and an optical receiver (50) for reading information stored in a barcode (42).

4. A portable communication apparatus as in claim 1 or 2, wherein the reading device (52) comprises a magnetic sensor, such as a coil (52), for reading information stored in a magnetic strip (54) on a card (53).

5. A portable communication apparatus as in any preceding claim, wherein the processing device (31)

comprises an amplifier (32), an A/D converter (34) and a digital signal processor (36).

6. A portable communication apparatus as in any preceding claim, wherein the apparatus is a radio telephone, preferably a mobile telephone (1).

7. A portable communication apparatus as in any preceding claim, wherein the reading device (17; 52) is integrated inside an apparatus housing (10) of the portable communication apparatus (1).

8. A portable communication apparatus as in any of claims 1-6, wherein the reading device (17; 52) is located outside an apparatus housing (10) of the portable communication apparatus (1) and is connected through an accessory connector (16) provided in the apparatus housing.